

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present U.S. patent application. Claim 3 has been objected to because of certain informalities. Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claim 3 has been amended to overcome an objection, not to overcome a cited reference. No claims have been canceled or added. Therefore, claims 1-19 remain pending.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 was objected to because the word “case” was misplaced in line 1. Claim 3 has been amended to correct this informality. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to claim 3.

Claim Rejections -35 U.S.C. § 103

Rejections of Claims 1-17 based on *Uno* and *Takenaka*

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,074,682 issued to Uno et al. (*Uno*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,381,499 issued to Takenaka et al. (*Takenaka*). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that claims 1-17 are not rendered obvious by *Uno* and *Takenaka*.

Claim 1 recites the following:

A laser module case comprising a snout through which an optical fiber assembly may be passed, the snout disposed through a wall of the case, wherein the optical fiber assembly is movable within the snout so that it may be aligned with a laser within the laser module case.

Claims 14, 16 and 17 recite similar limitations.

Uno recites a semiconductor laser module and a method of positioning the components thereof. See col. 1, lines 49-51 and 56-58. Applicant agrees with the Examiner that the optical fiber assembly in *Uno* is fixed relative to the snout. See Office Action page 2, paragraph 3, lines 6-7. Therefore, *Uno* fails to disclose that the optical fiber assembly is movable within the snout, as recited in claims 1, 14, 16 and 17.

Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's other interpretations of *Uno*. Discussion of such interpretations is not necessary to address Examiner's rejections in the Office Action. Applicant reserves the right to refute such interpretations if necessary in connection with subsequent office actions.

Examiner cites *Takenaka* with regard to the fiber assembly in *Uno* being fixed relative to the snout. See Office Action, page 2, paragraph 3, lines 8-11. *Takenaka* discloses a lens mount (first support), a unit holder (second support) and a laser mount (third support). See col. 5, lines 25-27. An optical isolator is placed in the lens mount, a ferrule carrying an optical fiber is fixed to the lens mount, and these components are assembled into an integrated unit. See col. 5, lines 29-33. The unit holder is then secured around the integrated unit, and the lens mount and laser mount are fixed to the unit holder, forming part of an optical assembly unit. See col. 5, lines 36-47. The optical assembly unit is soldered inside a package. See Fig. 1; col. 5, lines 47-52.

According to the Examiner, the unit holder (second support) in *Takenaka* constitutes the snout recited in claim 1. See Office Action, page 2, paragraph 3, line 9. However, the snout in claim 1 is dispersed through the wall of the laser module case, while the unit holder in *Takenaka* is soldered inside the package. Thus, *Takenaka* does not disclose that the optical fiber assembly is movable within the snout as recited in

claims 1, 14, 16 and 17. Consequently, *Takenaka* does not cure the deficiencies of *Uno*, and *Uno* in view of *Takenaka* fails to teach or suggest at least one limitation of claims 1, 14, 16, and 17. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

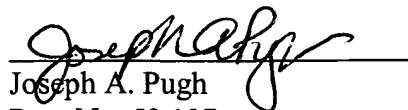
Claims 2-13 depend from claim 1. Claim 15 depends from claim 14. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicant submits that claims 2-13 and 15 are not rendered obvious by *Uno* in view of *Takenaka* for at least the reasons set forth above. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,


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